

Appl. No. 10/646,135
Response to Final Office Action dated 12-09-05

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 5, 7 through 14 and 17 through 27 are now pending in this application. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 6, 15 and 16 were cancelled without prejudice.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 19, 20, 22 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles et al. USPN: 6,044,215 (hereinafter: Charles), in view of Germagian et al. USPN: 6,894,457 (hereinafter: Germagian). (Final Office Action, Page 2). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles, in view of Germagian, and further in view of Palatov USPN: 5,510,691 (hereinafter: Palatov). (Final Office Action, Page 8). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles, in view of Germagian, and further in view of Reid USPN: 5,982,614 (hereinafter: Reid). (Final Office Action, Page 8). Claims 14, 21, 23-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles, in view of Germagian, and further in view of Helot USPN: 6,407,914 (hereinafter: Helot). (Final Office Action, Page 9). Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Charles, in view of Germagian, and further in view of Moroz et al. USPN: 6,256,691 (hereinafter: Moroz). (Final Office Action, Page 11). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 requires, in part, "a power converter contained within said remote docking station body, wherein said power converter has an input side and an output side, said power converter including *means for selecting a power output level from at least two power output levels that is to set the power output level available at said output side of said power converter*, said selecting means being controllable by a user and said selecting means being externally accessible via said remote docking station body" (emphasis added).

It is conceded in the rejection of claim 1 in the Office Action that:

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined said power converter (i.e., power adapter), as disclosed by Germagian, with said power converter (i.e., DC power supply board), as disclosed by Charles, for the advantage of accommodating different power sources, including domestic AC, internal and external DC, and international AC power sources (See Germagian, col. 2, lines 45 - 47).

However, while the claimed invention is directed to "selecting a *power output level* from at least two *power output levels* that is to set the *power output level* available at *said output side* of said power converter", the portion of the Germagian patent that is cited as supporting the motivation that forms the basis of the allegedly obvious combination is directed to differences in the *input* power, and not the *output* power. More specifically, the Germagian patent states at col. 2, lines 44 through 47 (emphasis added):

According to another aspect of the invention, the power system can accommodate different input power sources, including domestic AC, internal and external DC, and international AC power sources.

Thus, rather than addressing output power sources, the cited portion of the Germagian patent is more concerned with different *input* power sources, and it is submitted that this would not motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Charles device to include a provision for different *output* power levels.

It is therefore submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art, considering the Charles patent, would not be motivated to modify the Charles apparatus by the Germagian patent.

Further more, it is noted that Charles teaches expanding a portable computer by interfacing the portable computer for use with a plurality of peripheral devices (keyboard, mouse, etc.) which may not normally be compatible for use with that particular portable computer, via a single chassis/housing and a single cable. (Charles, FIG. 1A; Col. 2, Lines 40-43; Col. 6, Lines 13-18). In the pending Final Office Action, the Patent Office states that Charles teaches each element of independent Claim 1 of the present application, but does not teach a power converter including *means for selecting a power output level, said selecting means being controllable by a user and said selecting means being externally accessible via said remote docking station body* (Final Office Action,

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Page 3). However, the Patent Office cites Germagian as teaching the above-referenced elements of Claim 1 of the present application. (Final Office Action, Page 3).

Germagian teaches a carrying case including an integrated power supply for simultaneously charging/powering a plurality of devices stored within the carrying case, such as a portable computer, a PDA, a cell phone, etc. (Germagian, FIGS 1-3; Column 2, Lines 36-44). However, unlike Charles, Germagian does not teach, nor does it suggest, interfacing a computer for use *with* one or more of the peripheral devices. For example, Germagian does not teach, disclose or suggest interfacing its portable computer so that the portable computer may receive an input from one of the other devices (PDA, cell phone) that are also connected to the power supply. Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention looking at Charles (whose main objective is to provide a system/method for interfacing a computer for use with multiple, otherwise non-compatible, peripheral devices via a single chassis and a single cable), would not have been motivated to look to Germagian (whose main objective is to merely provide a computer carrying case having a single, integrated power supply/battery charger for simultaneously powering/charging multiple devices connected to the power supply/battery charger and stored within the carrying case). Germagian does not disclose, teach or suggest the desirability of interfacing the multiple devices for use with one another to arrive at the present invention as claimed in independent Claim 1 of the present application.

Further, one of the main objectives of the present invention is to provide a remote docking station as a single unit which incorporates a power converter within the remote docking station. (Present Application, Page 2, Paragraph 0001). Germagian teaches away from this idea by disclosing a power converter which, rather than being integrated into a single docking station, is connected to a power distributor, the power distributor having multiple ports for connecting to a plurality of devices. (Germagian, FIG. 6, Col. 7, Lines 1-18). Therefore, Applicant contends that someone looking at the integrated power supply/docking station of Charles, would not have been motivated to look to Germagian, which teaches away from Charles by disclosing a non-integrated power

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supply. (Germagian, FIG. 6, Col. 7, Lines 1-18).


Based on the rationale above, Applicant contends that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to combine or modify any of the above-cited references, either alone or in combination, to arrive at the present invention as claimed. As a result, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for independent Claim 1. Thus, independent Claim 1 is believed allowable. Further, Claims 2-5, 7-14 and 17-27 (which depend from Claim 1), are therefore allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the forgoing, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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